

February 2020

February was when the pandemic had first begun to be serious and travel restrictions had been put in place. At first I thought that it would die out if travel restrictions were kept and quarantines were followed. However that was not the case. Cases and deaths started increasing rapidly, and the United States started to panic. People started panic buying, especially toilet paper. My family and I did not participate in this. I did not think I needed to worry because it seemed unlikely that Covid-19 could reach my area any time soon.

March 2020

At the beginning of March, the first two cases of Covid-19 were reported in Colorado. I hoped that these cases would get isolated and I wouldn't have to go through the quarantines that other states were going through. Eventually my school closed a week early for spring break because of reported cases in the area. I was happy to have a longer break from school, but was also worried about how fast Covid-19 was spreading. Its death rate was also worrying. It was around this time that Covid-19 was officially declared a pandemic. Other schools began closing and stay at home orders were going around state to state.

April 2020

We started asynchronous school in April, and it was very difficult. All my classes handled it differently and it was confusing and difficult to keep up with all of them. Some of them had video meetings, others just had assignments from Google classroom. During April many Americans lost their jobs and had to file for unemployment. I was lucky that my parents' jobs could work around this. At this point I was hoping that people would start following quarantine guidelines and wearing masks in public to help stop the spread of Covid-19 and put an end to the pandemic. Also at this time, awareness for the spread of Covid-19 became more acute, especially in younger people and those who could expose older people to the virus.

May 2020

May was the end of the school year and our finals were very weird. We had to find a workaround to take our finals properly. AP students had to take their tests online as well. I was glad for school to be over because the last few weeks had been really stressful. This was the time that me, and likely many others started losing hope that the pandemic could still come to a quick end. At the end of May, the death toll in the US broke 100,000. I was confused and worried how so many people refused to follow containment guidelines despite the staggering amount of deaths.

June 2020

Summer break had started just before June, and I was looking forward to some time off school to relax. I did not get to interact with friends outside of social media, but I was not too bothered by it. Because school was out, it seemed more people were going out and breaking guidelines. The rate of covid cases kept on increasing. In addition to this, many cases of Covid-19 likely went

undetected in previous months, meaning that those who had it could have spread it to more people. Besides this I stayed at home and my family grudgingly followed guidelines.

July 2020

July felt very similar to June. I mostly stayed at home and didn't do very much. I had wanted to start a new job this summer, but Covid-19 had made it very difficult. I started getting tired of Covid-19 news, and seeing how bad things were getting. It was during this month that vaccine development started ramping up, and a successful vaccine seemed promising.

August 2020

School started up again in August and remote learning was much better this time. It was hard to get used to, but it worked much better than last year. However, remote learning was not nearly as nice as in person school. It was harder to learn and get work done. It also felt like we had a lot more homework to do than normal. Overall remote learning was okay. It was also during August that California was dealing with massive wildfires. The fires got so bad that some days the sky had smoke in it like clouds.

September 2020

In September remote learning was going fine. We had gotten things down on expectations and I was getting used to it. During this month Covid-19 just seemed to be something happening in the background of life. I got to interact with my friends more often with remote school, but not nearly as much with in-person school. In September Colorado was hit by the Pitch Gulch Fire. The sky was fully clouded with smoke for a while, as well as ash falling sometimes. I was not able to go outside at all during this time because of the smoke and ash. The weather was warm, but not fit for doing anything outside. During this month tensions about the upcoming election were rising, but they did not bother me much.

October 2020

In October distance learning went well. We had all gotten down the expectations and procedures for the modified school year. Although lessons were going slow, and teachers had to cram more work and learning in to fit everything within the school year. Because of the pandemic, people got worried that Halloween would be canceled this year. I did not really care as I was never a fan of Halloween. Tensions about next month's elections became higher, as well as polarization about the pandemic.

November 2020

November was election month, but I honestly do not really follow politics, so I did not care too much about the election, especially since I am too young to vote. After the election my school opened for hybrid learning, but I did not choose it because I thought it would be strange to go to

school two days a week and be home for the other two. Unfortunately not long after our school opened, there were some Covid-19 cases and it was closed for the rest of the semester.

December 2020

This month seemed like things were looking up. More information and a higher possibility of a successful vaccine seemed good, as well as the holidays and Christmas break being around the corner. Doing semifinals for school remotely was kind of difficult, but not too terrible. It was really nice to have a break from school over Christmas break. I enjoyed the holidays with my family. December was the end of 2020, and I think everyone was hoping that next year would be much better.

January 2021

2021 was not off to a good start with the insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6th. I was incredibly surprised that a group of people were willing to attack the Capitol building because they did not like the outcome of an election. One good thing about January was that vaccines were starting distribution for frontline workers. My school had a hybrid option, but I chose to stay learning at home since I had already done it the first semester. Being able to return to school was a good sign that the Pandemic could come to an end, but also that it could get worse if guidelines were loosened again.

February 2021

February was a generally boring month. Nothing serious happened, and school continued with hybrid learning. Vaccines were being distributed to those who needed them. I just stayed home and mostly inside because it was winter.

March 2021

During March vaccines became available for more people, including teachers. Since teachers were able to get vaccinated, more schools opened fully, including mine. After spring break, which was nice to have after the eventful first month of 2021, my school had an option for full in-person classes. I decided to stay at home since I was doing fine and didn't want to switch everything up near the end of the school year.

April 2021

April was an okay month. Vaccines were becoming more available and news about Covid-19 seemed to be declining. For students it was that time of the year for the SAT. It felt strange for me to go to my school for a day to take the SAT after having not gone for so long. Also students have to worry about AP tests and capstone projects for the end of the year and the summer. Surprisingly we had a big snowstorm in Colorado this month, and realized that we could just do remote school for everyone if the school building closed. I was disappointed and worried that this may become more common in the future.

May 2021

May, the month I am publishing this, things for the pandemic are looking better. Vaccines are readily available for everyone, and restrictions are being lowered in many areas. This last month of school has been hectic with final exams and preparing for summer. Overall, this pandemic has not majorly affected me. I did not get to interact with people as much as I'd like to, but I was not too bothered by it. I find it sad how the pandemic was not handled very well and many people died. I hope that in the future people can learn from this and not make the same mistakes.